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# The Record

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## Asian tsunami victims out of homes

MANILA, Philippines (BP) — "It took me four hours to swim home," said Mac Reyes, youth pastor at International Baptist Church of Manila.

He and Derick Jacinto, the church administrator, were at a church meeting when Typhoon Ketsana began pouring out its wrath on Metro Manila. As news spread of widespread flooding throughout the Asian megacity, the group was advised to stay put, but a few hours later Reyes received a frantic text message from his wife that the water was rising rapidly in their home.

He set out for home — on foot. The way home for him was down Marcos Highway, a four-lane expressway that runs through northeast Manila, where the flooding was at its worst. Along with hundreds of others, Reyes pushed toward home. As night fell, water was up to his chest.

"I became a sort of traffic cop on Marcos Highway," Reyes said. "There was no electricity, and I used the light from my cell phone to help direct people to the safest path."

He reached his neighborhood but found he couldn't reach his house. He was able to reach his family by cell phone. "My wife and son abandoned the house and moved to a Catholic church in our neighborhood," Reyes said. "From there, they moved to another church where they waited out the storm."

Reyes swam against the current to reach the church where his wife and son were waiting. Days passed before they could return home.



**OFFERING HOPE** — Minister Mac Reyes prays with Rosalina De Guzman in the Nangka-resettlement area, home to more than 2,000 people in Manila, Philippines, who were victims of the recent Asian tsunami. De Guzman stopped Reyes in the alley and asked, "Are you born again?" When Reyes said he was, the woman replied, "I knew you were. Will you pray with me?" (IMB photo)

**DST ENDS...**

**DON'T BE LATE FOR CHURCH!**  
TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK  
THIS WEEKEND

## MBC in session



Mickey Dalrymple, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and pastor of Fairview Church, Columbus, gavels into session the 2009 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on the morning of October 27. Details of the annual meeting will be published in next week's issue of The Baptist Record. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Jacinto chose to spend that Saturday night at the church after learning his family was safe on the second floor of his sister's townhouse. He, his wife, and three children live in the first floor of the townhouse. He headed out early Sunday and was reunited with his family members a few hours later.

On Tuesday, with water still standing in the bottom level of his home, Jacinto found tire inner tubes and floated his family to safety. "My kids thought it was fun," Jacinto smiled. "They said, 'Oh, Daddy, let's go swimming!'"

Two weeks later, Jacinto and his family were still living in a classroom at their church. The floodwaters in the streets of their neighborhood were still knee-deep.

Local residents are transporting neighbors to their homes via canoes. Several Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers reached Jacinto's home that way and spent a day cleaning out the mud. The group from Kentucky was among 30 trained state convention disaster relief volunteers whose efforts were coordinated through Baptist Global Response, an international relief and development organization.

Dovie Smallwood, the only woman in the group of volunteers, took great care to salvage as many of the Jacinto family's mementos as possible.

"I see the treasures that need to be saved," Smallwood said. "That's why I think women are a vital part of a disaster relief team." Then she joked, "These men just want to go in and throw everything away, but you take them into a tool shed and they'll save every rusty old screwdriver."

Few of Jacinto's possessions were salvageable, including an overstuffed couch and loveseat. With homeowner's insurance a rare luxury in the Philippines, the family may not be able to easily replace the furniture and other belongings lost in the tsunami.

The team carefully explained the health dangers of keeping the pieces, which were covered in mold and mud. Jacinto merely hung his head and nodded.

"We can't tell him to throw them away," said Coy Webb, state director for Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief. "It has to be his decision." Jacinto symbolizes countless Filipinos who lost most or all of their possessions in the flood.

Even in the midst of tragedy, however, glimmers of hope abound. Rosalina De Guzman, 70, lives among one of Metro Manila's many neighborhood alleyways.

As Reyes passed by her home two weeks after the storm, she sat on her front step, washing clothes in a plastic tub.

"Are you a pastor?" she called to him. Reyes stopped to reply, "Yes, ma'am."

"What is your religion?" she asked. "I am a Southern Baptist," he said.

"Are you born again?" she asked. "Yes, ma'am," he said.

"I knew you were born again when I first saw you here two weeks ago," she said as she smiled.

In the midst of trying to recover from their own personal disasters, both Reyes and Jacinto continue to assess their community's needs and look for ways their church can best meet those needs in the name of Jesus.





## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# A real customer satisfaction problem

More than a few Americans have completely lost their faith in the Fourth Estate, and who can blame them? The ability of the news media to report the news in an unbiased and straightforward manner certainly appears to have declined to an astonishingly low level over the past few years. That's why so many surveys rate journalists' honesty near the bottom of the list, along with some other mighty unsavory professions.

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press in Washington, D.C., recently reported that nearly two-thirds of Americans believe the mainstream news media are frequently inaccurate. Even more alarming, the Pew study also reported that almost three-quarters of those surveyed who said they were voters believe the mainstream media favor one side of an issue over another.

If the products of the mainstream news media were regulated, those products would have to be recalled as a danger to consumers. Seriously, what other business in America posts such dismal customer satisfaction figures?

No group has been more maligned by the news media than Christians. That's not even arguable. For example, on October 22 during the dreadful MSNBC show named *Hardball*, host Chris Matthews made the disgraceful comment, "The group in this country that most resembles the Taliban, ironically, is the Religious Right."

Of course, the "Religious Right" to which Matthews is referring would include many good Christians and Christian groups that don't like seeing the country descend into the moral and political cesspool toward which we're headed (and, in many respects, in which we've already arrived). Never mind.



Using an unnecessarily broad and tainted brush, Matthews damned many well-meaning people and groups with his histrionic and untruthful overstatement.

How many terrorist groups has the American Religious Right harbored and protected while the group planned to fly airplanes into tall buildings? How many women has the American Religious Right beaten to death for violating a dress code? How many bombs have they planted to kill innocent civilians?

Beware of the secular news media's pronouncements about us. People of such extreme secular bent "believe that Christians and conservatives and Republicans and libertarians are all variations on the Nazi theme," said Andrew Breitbart in an interview in the October 17 issue of *The Wall Street Journal*.

Breitbart, you will recall, is responsible for breaking the story on illegal activities at the community organizing group

ACORN, where employees were caught multiple times on hidden cameras advising undercover pseudo-reporters on how to evade federal taxes on the prostitution of underage children.

"It was so obvious that the mainstream media, given this information (on ACORN), would not cover it and would, in effect, attempt to cover it up. ... It was also a means to attack the media and to expose them... for the partisan hacks that they are."

Breitbart was so successful at going around the mainstream media to get the ACORN story to the public — a fascinating subject for another column — that the august *New York Times* was compelled to publicly admit that its vaunted news gathering operation had missed the story for more than 12 days. Other mainstream news media outlets have since said they missed the story, too.

C'mon, fellows. You didn't miss the story. You spiked it because it didn't fit your world view. That's why we can't trust you.

"This story has everything you could ever want — corruption, sleazy actions at tax-funded organizations, firings, government ties, sex, hookers. It is a network news director's dream. Imagine the ratings. But almost no one is covering it," wrote Dan Gaior, vice president for business and culture at the Media Research Center, in a September 14 column for *FoxNews.com*. "The major (news media) outlets cover what they want and create the themes they want. When they find something inconvenient they let it pass."

Under the corrupt system of news gathering currently in place in this country, it's an easy prediction to make that Christians will always be in the crosshairs of the mainstream news media like Chris Matthews and his ilk but don't grow weary. We have Kingdom work yet to accomplish.

Remember, too: We already know how everything is going to turn out.

I am about to go out on a limb and I can hear the chain saws being cranked to cut it off behind me. Here I go.

The dress code (or lack thereof) in our churches is reaching a disturbing point. I have talked with several pastors about this and they feel helpless to say anything about it. Scripture does have something to say. I Timothy 2:9-10 reads, "Also, the women are to dress themselves in modest clothing, with decency and good sense; not with elaborate hairstyles, gold, pearls, or expensive apparel, but with good works as is proper for women who affirm that they worship God." (HCSB).

When a man goes to church, he does not go to see nudity. Women, it is nobody's business how deep your cleavage is. Young ladies, if your clothes do not meet in the middle or if you have to pull it down when you stand up, it means that you have outgrown it. Give it to your little sister or Goodwill.

When a man sits in the church and a woman sits in front of him with a strapless dress on, all he sees is bare skin. His imagination goes wild and he finds it hard to focus on worship. Skin makes men sin!

## GUEST OPINION:



### Cover up, pull up!

By Archie Herrin  
Columbia

This is why pornography is so tempting for men, so ladies help us by following the instruction of Scripture: Dress modestly. Cover yourself.

Senior adult ladies, who dress modestly, you are the ones who can help your church take care of this problem. You can approach your daughter or granddaughter about this matter without being seen as a pervert. Your church needs your help.

Just so you would know that I am not picking on church people, I have also had church people tell me that some wives and children of their pastor/staff are not dressing modestly. Men, admire your wife's beauty but keep it just

between you two. Daddy, give the final inspection before your daughter leaves the house. Mama, respect the decision of Daddy and support him in his decision of what is modest. Young people face great temptations. When the hormones go wild, run to Jesus. "...Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you..." James 4:7 (HCSB).

Do not sacrifice your daughter or son to the god called sex.

This brings me to another point. Young men, pull up your pants. It is just as immodest for you to show off your underwear. Buy a belt and wear it to hold up your pants. Respect young ladies as you would want your sister respected.

I want to go back to the last part of the Scripture, "...who affirms that they worship God." When you dress like the world, you are not following the Scripture. You are identifying with the world. Sometime it is challenging to be obedient to the Word of God because goes against the world's ideal.

Jesus, we do love you and want to be obedient. May your glory shine through us as we dress our bodies in a modest way.

Am I trying to run people out of the church? Absolutely not! All I am trying to do is challenge all of us to holy living. I Corinthians 6:19-20 will help us here. "Do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own for you were bought with price: therefore glorify God in your body." (HCSB). Let the transforming power of the Holy Spirit rule your life.

If you cut the limb off behind me, I will land on the Word. Let all seek holiness before God and mankind. To God be the Glory!

Herrin is missions director of Tri-County Association, Columbia.



# Astronaut honors martyred missionaries

HOUSTON (BP) — Patrick Forrester, the space shuttle astronaut who carried a piece of missions aviation history into space with him on a recent Discovery flight, encourages people to get personally involved in sharing the Gospel outside their comfort zones.

"I really encourage everybody that has not done it to go on at least a short-term mission trip, whether it's across town or around the world, because I think it's life-changing to see the need out there and the way that we can impact people," Forrester told Baptist Press.

A deacon at University Church in Houston, Forrester carried with him a piece of the battery box from martyred missionary pilot Nate Saint's Piper PA-14 airplane when the space shuttle Discovery docked at the international space station in late August.

Saint was among five Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) missionaries who were killed in 1956 on a river sandbar in Ecuador by members of the Waodani tribe.

The plane part was provided by MAF, an organization that transports missionaries, medical personnel, medicines, and relief supplies into remote areas. Forrester plans to return the item to the fellowship along with a certificate confirming its presence on Discovery's flight.

"I'm looking forward to an opportunity to go up to Idaho and return it in person and hopefully talk to the employees and their families up there about space flight," he said, referring to the fellowship's headquarters in Nampa, Idaho.

Forrester described the piece of the battery box as roughly four by six inches. "We're allowed to fly up to 10 things for organizations in what's called the official flight

kit," Forrester said. "When I was looking at organizations that I felt were having an impact in the world and that had an impact on my life, this was just one of the ones that I wanted to honor."

In addition to the plane part, Forrester took a flag honoring a battalion of wounded soldiers from Walter Reed Army Medical Center and a memento from the military honor guard that handled his father's funeral this year.

This was the third space shuttle flight for Forrester, 52, a retired Army colonel and aviator who has been an astronaut since 1996. He performed spacewalks on the first two missions, in 2001 and 2007, and this time one of his primary roles was to operate the robotic arm that checks for damage on the shuttle.

"Ever since the Columbia accident we do that to make sure there was no damage on launch and make sure there was no damage once we were docked to the space station before we come home," he said.

Forrester described what it's like to have an expanded view of God's creation firsthand. "It's always a beautiful view that we have when we're up there looking back at earth and looking out toward the stars and moon, out toward the heavens," he said. "I'm just always amazed at what I see."

"Sometimes people will expect it to be almost a religious experience when you go up there, and I guess



IN ORBIT — Astronaut Patrick Forrester, a mission specialist on the Discovery Space Shuttle, uses a communication system on the flight deck of the Earth-orbiting shuttle during flight day two activities on August 29. (BP photo courtesy of NASA)

knowing God as Creator and the miracles that I see all around me on earth, it's less of that for me and sometimes more what He's taught me just through my experiences of being an astronaut."

Forrester doesn't expect to travel to space again, given that there are only six remaining shuttle missions before the scheduled end of the space shuttle program. Those six flights have been assigned.

With a strong interest in missions, Forrester has hopes of returning to the mission field on short-term and possibly long-term trips. "I don't have any mission trips planned right now, mainly because of just returning from this flight. I've had quite a bit of post-flight travel and presentations that we do," he said. "I look forward to my next mission trip. I've missed it the past two years because of flying in space and training."

"Where it will be, I'm not really sure. I do have a desire to go back to Africa. We've been in Uganda a couple of times and South Africa, and I have a feeling it may be that direction," Forrester said.

He has a good friend who

worked as a physician for NASA and then became a missionary to Uganda with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. The man, who flies missions daily with MAF, recently transferred to Lesotho, a landlocked country in South Africa.

"I'm hoping to get down there to see him in Lesotho," Forrester said.

As he encourages people to go on at least one mission trip, Forrester said the simple answer for why people must go is that it's the mandate of the Great Commission.

"I think we're all given certain talents and passions and gifts, and it's a matter of finding where those intersect with God's work, which is going on all around us. We have to figure out where we're supposed to have an impact on the world," he said.

"Once my eyes were opened to people giving their lives to God's work and how little it takes from us to do some of the same things, I think it's important, and whatever I can do to bring attention to that or support it with my own life and my own resources, that's what I want to do."

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

A devout Christian, professional golfer, and Southern Baptist, Payne Stewart, is memorialized Oct. 28 at First Church, Orlando, Fla., after his death in a plane crash Oct. 25.

### 20 years ago

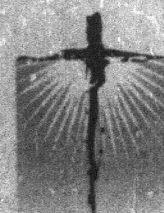
In its first year of existence, the George County Baptist Food Bank, a ministry of George Association, gives food for a week's worth of meals for a family of four to approximately 300 people. Unemployment in the county is at 18-20%.

### 50 years ago

Billy Graham, speaking at Wheaton College, says "There is no possibility for world peace" because of the sinful condition of the world. Earlier, the evangelist said that the "sin of sexual disobedience is the great damning sin of America."



MARTYRED SAINT — In this 1955 photo, Mission Aviation Fellowship pilot Nate Saint shows gifts he received from Waodani Indians of Ecuador. Saint was martyred the next year while in the service of Christian missions. Astronaut Patrick Forrester carried a piece of Saint's Piper PA-14 airplane to the international space station in his current mission aboard space shuttle Discovery. (BP photo)



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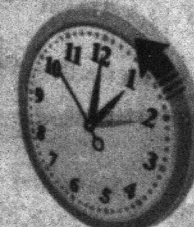
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By Charles Marx, 1932-2004  
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HZXVAF, JXZ FYD VS JXZ  
AVGF LVNZIX, YCF JXD  
QOVPA QXYAA HZ  
FPBPFZF PC JXZ NPFQJ  
VS JXZZ.

UZLXYGPYX SVKGJZZC:  
VCZ

Clue: H = B

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Obadiah One: Fifteen



YOU CAN RESPOND  
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## FRIENDSHIPS

Genuine friendships are hard to come by. A good friend is a wonderful thing and for most people there may not be very many of them. I can still remember my elementary school teacher talking about friendships. She made a point of telling the class that when a person comes to the end of their life, if they have four or five good friends, then their life would have been worthwhile.

I remember looking around the room and seeing all of my classmates. I thought every one of them was a good friend. I thought about all of my buddies who were not in the class, folks at church, and people with whom I played games, and everywhere I turned there were good friends in my life. I wondered what that lady was talking about because anybody ought to have more than a handful of friends. Growing up, maturing, and seeing relationships on an adult level, it was an eye opener to see that a handful of friends may be a good thing.

I got to thinking about friendships recently because of an anonymous quote that I saw. It said something like this, "A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words." While the writer was not identified, whoever did it created in me some thought-provoking moments about friendships. Sometimes we would like to have a friendship with someone but the person does not seem to be receptive to the idea. At other times there are people who want you to be their friend and you are not too big on that idea either.

It is hard to force friendships. There is something about the way you are wired up and the chemistry that happens between folks that helps create friendships, though it may take a good deal of work and care to keep them alive and meaningful. No one ever elevated friendship to the position that Jesus did. Jesus was the master teacher. He was God in the flesh. He was the Redeemer of mankind and to that group of hand-chosen followers, He came to a point in His ministry when He said, "I call you friends because that is what you are" (John 15:15b).

Friendship is indeed an exalted relationship in life that in some ways would rank equal to or above virtually every other relationship. You can have some great relationships and still not be friends. You may be fellow church members, fans of the same sports team, partners in business, fellow workers, schoolmates, teammates, or sing in the same choir and still not be friends. It is not even that you do not like some people. You

mutually have to agree to let each other into that circle of significance in your life.

Friendships are not usually easily found. Good friends are even harder to come by and longtime friends are something to be celebrated. You may have noticed that a friend is not dependent upon a geographical location. They are not dependent upon agreement on every detail in life or built in a common interest alone. While I certainly do not know everything that goes into genuine friendships, there are some things that are almost indispensable.

**One is loyalty.** The Scripture says, "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Prov. 18:24). Many preachers have said that is pointing to Jesus and certainly He is that kind of friend, but a genuine friend in your life will be like that also — sticking closer than even your own kinfolk. When you study the friendship of David and Jonathan you become aware of the fact that regardless of what others said, what public opinion was, or the pressures that may come against the friendship, there is a loyalty that remains steadfast and true.

**Secondly, there is niceness.** I have known people who had good friends that were not nice people. Let me restate that: They were not nice to other people. They were not nice to a lot of people, but invariably there was a streak of niceness toward their friend. It is hard to have a friend that is not nice. Through the years, I have observed that the friends that were the dearest to me were nice people. At times, it made me reevaluate my life because I was not as nice to them as they were to me. I often think about the little girl who prayed and said a bigger mouthful than she realized when she said, "Lord, please help all of the bad people to be good and help the good people to be nice." I think that this is the component that oftentimes gets packed away in a closet somewhere or thrown out with the garbage when it comes to marriages. Two people fall in love and marry. I am sure they are in love with each other, but they are not nice to each other.

They have a gentle respect for each other. They compliment each other. They enrich one another. They are just not nice to each other. With the passing of time and after some years have rolled by, they still would analyze their relationship as one of love but nice to each other, maybe not so they end up being lovers but not friends. That is not a good thing.

A third component of friendships seems to be forgiveness. While we have all failed, we are all flawed, and every one of us has sinned, friends forgive one another. They have the kind of care and love for each other that

overlooks things. They forgive and move on. I was preaching at a church celebrating their pastor's anniversary. He had been at the church for decades. After the service, I was talking to some of the members and one spoke up and said, "He knows everything about everyone of us and he still loves us." Then she said with a smile, "But we know everything about him and we still love him." You cannot reach over things without the bridge of forgiveness being in place. That allows deep, meaningful, and long-lasting friendships.

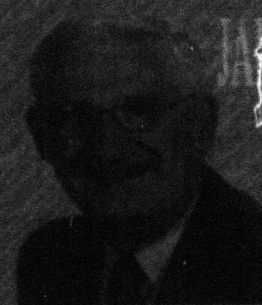
I hope that you have a friend, maybe even a handful of them, but if you do not I want you to know that Jesus wants to be your friend. You can mark this down — Jesus will be loyal, He will be nice, and He will forgive. Thank God, He is our friend!

The author can be contacted at [jfutral@mbcb.org](mailto:jfutral@mbcb.org).



## Directions

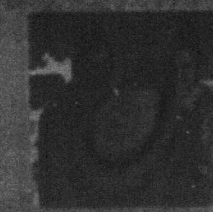
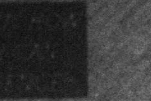
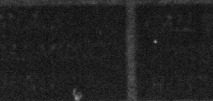
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# Land answers critics health reform 'Nazi' comments

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) President Richard Land's assertions that some proposed elements of health care reform are tainted by principles embraced by the Third Reich have drawn critical response from some, perhaps none more notably than Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

Land told Baptist Press that despite Foxman's desire, as outlined in an ADL press release, that the "use of Nazi analogies will cease," he has no plans to stop pointing out where the reasoning behind health care reform proposals intersect the ideologies held by those in history who failed to appreciate the preciousness of all human life.

The Southern Baptist ethicist went on to say that while he has been "sensitized to use far more care in descriptive language," he still believes there are connections to be made between some underlying philosophies held by the Germans and others in the first half of the 20th century, and certain elements under discussion in the health care reform debate today.

In an October 9 letter made public on the Anti-Defamation League website, Foxman communicated his concern that Land was, in a recent speech, accusing those involved in health care reform deliberations of proposing "precisely what the Nazis did."

Foxman also took issue with Land's naming of White House healthcare advisor Ezekiel Emanuel as the recipient of a mock award named for Josef Mengele, a Nazi doctor nicknamed the "Angel of Death," who conducted horrific and brutal experiments primarily on children.

The ADL chief's letter said any Nazi comparisons are "inappropriate, insensitive, and unjustified."

In his letter to ADL's Foxman, Land said he did not intend "to equate the Obama administration's healthcare reform proposals with anything related to the Holocaust." Land expressed deep regret for appearing to link "anyone in the Obama administration" with Mengele. He wrote that he was using "hyperbole for effect" and promised he would refrain from making such comparisons in the future.

Land expressed hope that their exchange on the matter would foster "greater cooperation between Jews and Christians on all matters of mutual concern, including opposing ethnic bigotry, Holocaust denial, and the extreme threat posed by the current Iranian regime."

Land said he has a deep affection for the Jewish people and the state of Israel, and added that the Holocaust was a "horrific event that reminds us of man's inhumanity to man." He said it was made even more disturbing by the fact that it took place in a scientifically and culturally advanced country like Germany.

Land said the Nazi genocide demonstrates what happens when bad ideas are taken to their worst conclusions — but why bring Nazi Germany into a discussion over health care reform? Land told Baptist Press there was value in heeding the lessons of history, recalling a saying attributed to Mark Twain that "while history doesn't always repeat, it often rhymes."

"There were very lethal and deadly philosophies loose in 20th century Germany prior to the Nazis' ascendancy to power that called for devaluing some human beings as less worthy of life than other human beings," he said, recalling there were arguments for euthanizing those who were perceived to be "useless eaters" and those who had "lives unworthy of life."

"These poisonous philosophies became ever more deadly as the Nazis applied them to ever wider categories of people, such as Jews and Gypsies," he continued.

Land said there are some involved in the health care debate who appear to believe some lives are less valuable and less worthy of medical treatment than others.

In noting he had previously used "imprecise language," Land said he should have said some of the philosophies that are being espoused "bear a lethal similarity in their attitudes toward the elderly and the terminally ill and could ultimately lead to the kinds of things the Nazis did."

"To equate expressing concerns that such a mindset could be carried to such an extreme at some time in the future as the equivalent of saying the Obama administration is like the Nazis or that Barack Obama is Hitler is either delusional or deliberately misleading," Land said.

In the interview with Baptist Press, Land also criticized comments made in an online piece by a former Indiana State University professor, Richard Pierard.

In his commentary cited at the Baptist Center for Ethics' website, Pierard wrote in part, "To evoke images of Hitler or the Holocaust to thwart healthcare reform is a brutal insult both to the victims and survivors of that Holocaust. We must proclaim as widely as possible that the term 'Nazism' and images of the swastika have nothing to do with the issues at hand. Any such comparisons are false and are intended only to frighten and confuse people."

Said Land, "Richard Pierard attempts to remove the Third Reich as a subject of discussion when it comes to the healthcare debate."

Pierard also "impugns the motives of those who disagree with him," Land continued, adding that Pierard's comments "sound like an attempt at censorship of people who choose to express themselves in ways he finds unacceptable."

"The last time I checked, Dr. Pierard had not been made speech czar," Land said, promising to exercise his "First Amendment rights whether he likes it or not."

Land also took issue with an article in New York magazine that linked him with those who call President Obama Hitler. "I

saw an article titled 'The Right Calls Obama Hitler.' I thought to myself, 'What loon did that?' he said. "Then I read the first paragraph and discovered they thought it was me."

Calling this assertion "absurd," he said, "There is no way to honestly and legitimately get from what I said to the idea that I was in any way, shape or fashion calling President Obama Hitler or anyone in the Obama administration a Nazi. 'It defies logic,' he said.

Land said some of the ideas reportedly promoted by Emanuel could lead to "denial of care, which could be seen in extreme cases as passive euthanasia."

Land said he was definitely not the first to voice such a concern about threats to human life, noting that his friend and mentor, the late Richard John Neuhaus, took issue with the 1990 court ruling in which Nancy Cruzan, who was in a persistent vegetative state, was denied hydration and nutrition.

In his 1992 book, *America Against Itself: Moral Vision and the Public Order*, Neuhaus, founder of the journal *First Things*, recalled that the Germans found themselves in deep trouble when they began targeting those they believed had lives unworthy of life.

The beliefs that led to the atrocities of the Third Reich rejected the sanctity of every human life, from "conception to natural death" (the last phrase is found in Article XV of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000), Land said, noting that many of the ideas adopted by German doctors were borrowed from American eugenicists.

Land said some health care reform proponents, including Emanuel, seem to suggest that as people age they have lives less worthy of life "or at least less worthy of being given full access to treatment."

"I am not questioning the intentions of those who are promoting bad ideas. It's not intentions that concern me; it is their potential consequences," he said.

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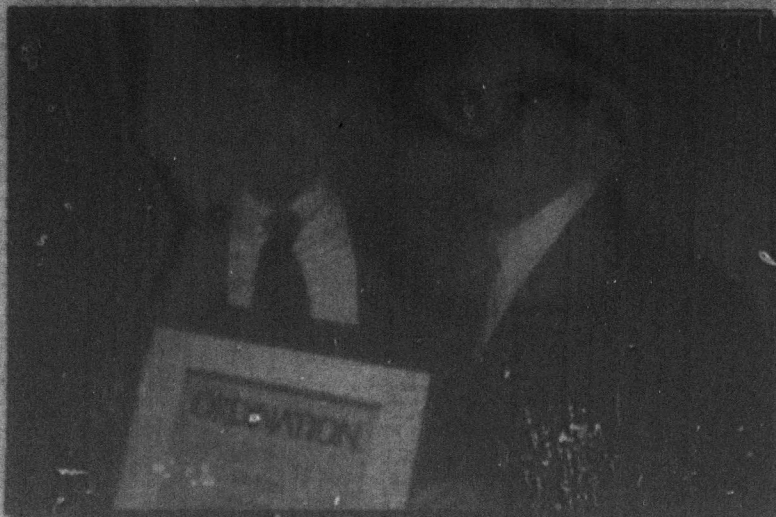
2. Macedonia Church, Pearl



3. Hebron Church, Liberty



4. Antioch Church, Union



5a. Auburn Church, Tupelo, deacon ordination



## MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

1. North Greenwood Church, Greenwood, is selling a cookbook, Joy of Sharing II, featuring more than 600 recipes. To purchase, send \$15 plus \$4.95 S&H to Brenda Griffin, 324 West Monroe, Greenwood, MS 38930. Proceeds go toward church mission work.

2. The ladies' UMU of Macedonia Church, Petal, held a tea at The Red Maple Sept. 27 honoring the wives of past and present ministers. Melanie Hubbard, shown kneeling, presented the program. Shown, from left, are Linda Sue Doggett, Carolyn Ball, Charlotte Herchenhahn, Martha Prestwood, Amy Farris, Susie Hartfield, Ruby Garrard, and Nicole Ruhnke.

3. Hebron Church, Liberty, ordained Murray Reynolds as deacon. Shown are Cletus Moak, Earnest Whittington, Reynolds, Aneta Reynolds, Alton Foster, and Marin Hayden.

4. Antioch Church, Union, had a high attendance day. The church missed their goal of 200 in Sunday School by two, and as a result pastor Ray Spence and Steve Moody had to shave their beards and kiss a goat.

5. Auburn Church, Tupelo, ordained Kent Lewis as deacon Aug. 30. Shown are pastor Jimmy Henry and Kent. The church also held a baby dedication the same day. Shown are the participants.

6. Morrison Chapel Church, Cleveland, recently ordained Gary Singley and Taylor Burrell as deacons. Shown are Singley, pastor John Arthur Thomas, and Burrell.

7. Goss Church, Columbia, ordained Allan Doane and Jeremy Grant as deacons. Shown are Debbie Doane, Doane, pastor Mark McArthur, Grant, and Lindsay Grant.

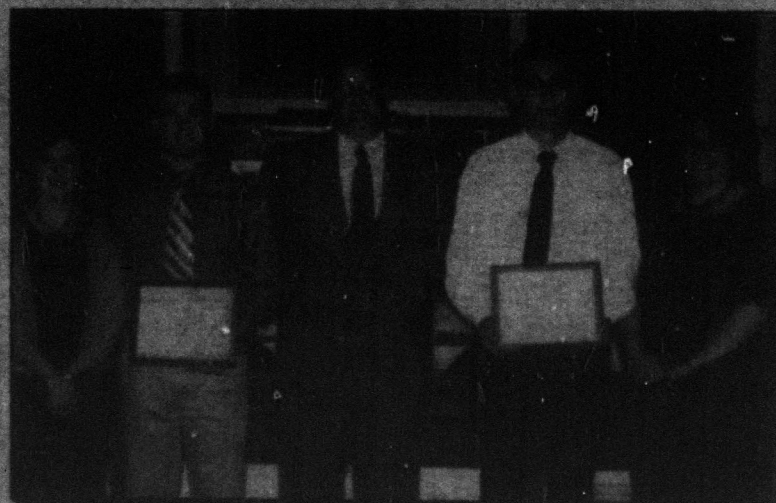
8. Liberty Church, Jasper Association, ordained Lonnie Cook as deacon Aug. 23. Shown are pastor Daniel Smith, Cook, Kim Cook, and Tommy Price.



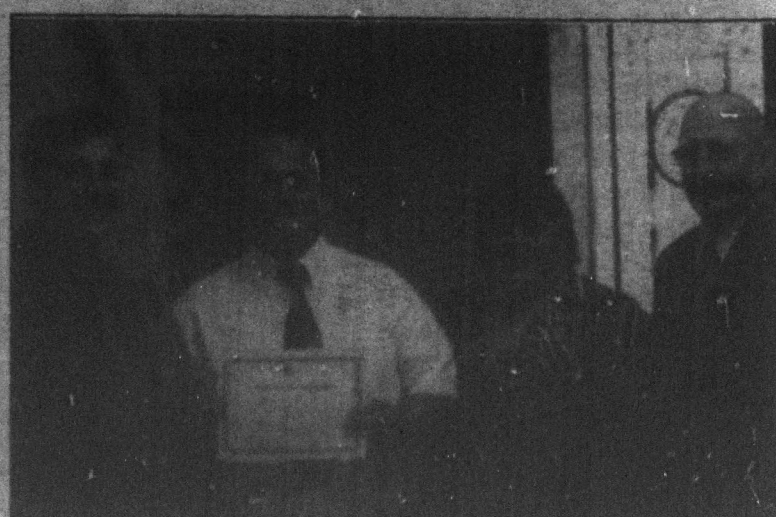
5b. Auburn Church, Tupelo, baby dedication



6. Morrison Chapel Church, Cleveland



7. Goss Church, Columbia



8. Liberty Church, Jasper Association



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



9. Edwards Church, Edwards



10. Ward



11. Edwards Church, Edwards



12. Flowood Church, Flowood



13. Gumpond Church, Lumberton

9. **Edwards Church, Edwards**, recently dedicated a new church sign in memory of former member, the late W.H. (Sonny) Montgomery, Jr. Shown with the sign is Rebecca Montgomery (3rd from left) and other family members.

10. The Lydia Class of **First Church, Magnolia**, surprised Renee Ward, wife of pastor Barry Ward, with a dinner in her honor recognizing the role of a pastor's wife during Pastor Appreciation Month. Shown is Ward.

11. **Mt. Vernon Baptist, Eupora**, celebrated Pastor Appreciation Day October 18. Shown are pastor Dale and Ms. Evelyn Strickland.

12. **Flowood Church, Flowood**, held a note-burning on Aug. 16 on the first phase of their building program. Shown are Kenneth Blakeney, Jerry Turner, and Jessie Purvis. G.R. "Ricky" Gray, pastor.

13. **Gumpond Church, Lumberton**, ordained Jim Nance as deacon Oct. 4. Shown are Nance and his wife Linda.

14. **West Corinth Church, Corinth**, is sponsoring Newsong, Bluetree, and Chynna & Vaughan in concert with guest speaker Tony Nolan Nov. 15 at the Corinth Crossroads Arena Nov. 15, 6 p.m. Free. For sponsors, visit [www.the-blitz09.com](http://www.the-blitz09.com). Canned goods will be collected for the local food pantry.

15. **McBee Church, Columbus** is hosting a fall festival Oct. 31, noon - 2 p.m., with games, treats, face painting, and more.

16. Richard J. "Dick" Hill, pastor, **Glendale Church, Leland**, has written a book, *A Glimpse of the Christian*, just released by Pleasant Word, a division of WinePress Publishing. The books are available at LifeWay Christian Store in Jackson.

17. **First Church, Terry**, is hosting the contemporary Christian group Downhere Nov. 1, 10:30 a.m.

18. **First Church, Morton**, is sponsoring a church-wide garage sale Nov. 7, 7 a.m. - noon, with proceeds going toward the church's youth mission trip to Canada in 2011.

## COLLEGE NEWS

1. **Mississippi College** is hosting a fall hymn festival Nov. 1, 3 p.m., in Provine Chapel, celebrating the building's 150th anniversary.

2. The Alpha Theta Pi chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa religious studies national honor society at **Blue Mountain College** was introduced recently. Front row: Ronald Meeks, director of church relations; Michal Roberson of Arkabutla; Chris Jones of Blue Mountain; Charlie Cisco of Lamar; and Douglas Bain, chair of the department of Biblical and associated studies, and chapter sponsor. Back row: Jordan Norris of Hueytown, Ala.; Andrew Best of Pride, La.; Thomas Magers II of Nettleton; David Haynes of Booneville; and Bradley Hill of Ripley.

3. International Mission Board president Jerry Rankin gave the 2009 Carey lecture recently. Shown are president Tommy King and Rankin.

4. **Mississippi College's** equestrian team will welcome riders from five states Nov. 14 as part of the school's Preview Day. Head trainer Jack

Stedding, assistant trainer Linda Andrisani, MC coach Becky Baunel, and others will be on hand to greet prospective riders from 2 - 4 p.m. at Providence Hill Farm. For more information, visit [www.providence-hillfarm.com](http://www.providence-hillfarm.com) or [www.gochocataws.com](http://www.gochocataws.com).

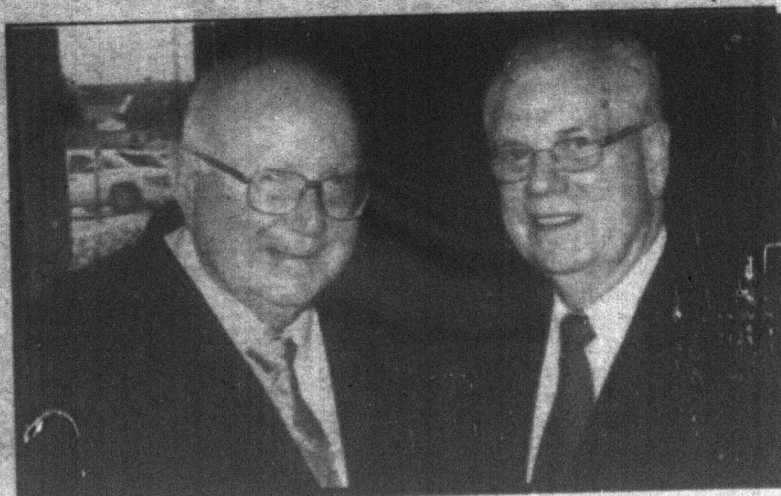
5. **Mississippi College** senior Jessica Millis won the American Southwest Conference T-shirt design contest Oct. 15.

6. The Office of Continuing Education at **Mississippi College** will host the Capital Area Student Council Workshop Nov. 11-12. Student leaders from the area's junior high schools will meet on Wednesday and those from the high schools on Thursday. The workshop will be held at MC from 9 a.m. to 12 noon each day. Registration deadline is October 30. School advisors interested in their Student Council attending this workshop may visit the website: [www.mc.edu/academics/ce](http://www.mc.edu/academics/ce), call the Office of Continuing Education at 601.925.3263 or email [brunson@mc.edu](mailto:brunson@mc.edu) for more information.

[www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)



2. BMC honor society



3. King and Rankin



# Pregnancy centers highly effective, FRC report says

WASHINGTON (BP) — Mallory Hitt could have been aborted after her mother was raped, but instead was placed for adoption because her mother chose to go to a pregnancy resource center. Now she is a dean's list student hoping to achieve a law degree.

Hitt shared her story at the National Press Club, where the Family Research Council (FRC) released a new report detailing the impact of pregnancy resource centers nationwide in curbing the abortion epidemic and improving the lives of pregnant women in need.

"Had my birthmother not turned to the pregnancy center for help, I might not have left her womb intact. I am glad to be alive and feel an obligation to let people know that pregnancy centers are good for America because they really help women and children,"

Hitt, a student at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va., said.

The FRC report, *A Passion to Serve, A Vision for Life*, is available at [www.aPassionToServe.org](http://www.aPassionToServe.org), and includes information on how pregnancy resource centers in the United States and worldwide have made a difference. Release of the report coincided with the 40-year anniversary of the pregnancy resource center movement in the U.S.

With more than 2,300 U.S. centers affiliated with national organizations, pregnancy resource centers assist about 5,500 Americans daily with concerns related to sexuality and pregnancy, in addition to serving in more than 40 countries, according to the report, which was released September 30.

"This report lays out the untold story of centers that provide caring and compassionate services to at least 1.9 million people each year at little or no cost to the clients and the taxpayers, in large part thanks to private charity and the high proportion of trained volunteers who work at the centers," Tony Perkins, FRC's president, said.

One way some pregnancy resource centers assist pregnant women is by providing free ultrasounds. Women who are at risk to have an abortion, the report said, are twice as likely "to express their intent to carry their baby" to term if they receive counseling and an ultrasound than if they only receive counseling.

Another way pregnancy resource centers assist women is by connecting with them online, the report said. The 24/7 Option Line contact center, a website that assists people with pregnancy-related and abortion-recovery needs, is operated by Care Net, a non-

profit organization that supports a large network of pregnancy centers, and joint venture partner Heartbeat International, an association of such centers, the report said.

"The Option Line is giving us the opportunity to reach 93% of those women, our youngest demographic, who will only go online to find their answers, to connect with a real person and get them in a door where the loving care and support is there for her," Melinda Delahoyde, Care Net's president, said at the news conference.

Pregnancy resource centers help women attain better health for themselves and for their children by providing abortion alternatives such as pregnancy support and adoption, Freda McKissic Bush, medical advisor for Heartbeat International, said.

Among services provided by many pregnancy resource centers, according to the report, are pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, prenatal care, childbirth classes, testing for sexually transmitted diseases, abstinence education, post-abortion counseling, and material assistance.

Pregnancy resource centers not only provide for needs from resources within the centers but by connecting women to

free clinics, community health centers and other services, which usually result in positive maternal and child health effects, the report said.

Examples of community, social and support agencies are listed in the document, which is available for download at [www.aPassionToServe.org](http://www.aPassionToServe.org).

Sandy Christiansen, national medical consultant to Care Net, said she has performed hundreds of ultrasounds at pregnancy resource centers. "I never tire of observing the look in that woman's eye or the man's eye... when they first see that baby... When they see a flickering heartbeat, they make a connection."

Only 13% of counties in the United States have an abortion facility, but 65% of all U.S. women live in those counties, Margaret Hartshorn, president of Heartbeat International, said.

Although pregnancy resource centers make positive contributions in their communities, the centers face challenges. "Any health care reform, any public policy that inhibits the centers is undercutting the wellbeing of mothers, babies and families," said Charles Donovan, senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation's DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society.

## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **West Salem Church, Richton:** Revival, Nov. 8 - 11; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Bruce McKenzie, speaker; Bruce McKenzie and Keith Elmore, music; David Strebeck, interim pastor.

2. **First Church, Sardis:** 165th anniversary celebration, Nov. 7 - 8; Sat., carnival games and activities, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Sun., worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Howard Beam, speaker.

3. **Phillipston Church, Phillipston:** Revival, Nov. 6 - 8; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and

veteran's memorial service; 7 p.m. nightly; Tim Mims and D. I. Smith, speakers.

4. **First Church, Lauderdale:** 36th celebration, Nov. 8, 11 a.m.; Mike Russell, speaker; Susan Caynor, music; Ryan Culpepper, pastor.

5. **New Henleyfield Church, Pearl River County:** Revival, Nov. 4 - 11; Sun., 11 a.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; led by Campers on Mission group.

6. **Evansville Church, Coldwater:** Homecoming, Nov. 8, 10:30 a.m.; Calvin Price, speaker; Todd Bailey and Evansville choir, music.

7. **Liberty Church, Jasper Association:** Homecoming, Nov. 1; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; service, 11 a.m., followed by potluck lunch and concert with Good H2O; Daniel Smith, speaker.

8. **Mt. Olive Church, Okolona:** Homecoming/Thanksgiving/harvest celebration, Nov. 15; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon concert with Alan Sibley and The Magnolia Ramblers.

9. **First Church, Columbia:** James E. Messer Bible and evangelism conference, Nov. 1 - 4, with weekday noon and evening ser-

vices; John Sullivan, Emir Caner, Don Wilton, and James Messer, speakers.

10. **First Church, Nettleton:** Revival, Nov. 1 - 4; Sun., 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Tom Whitsett, speaker; Billy Nelson, music; Donald Pounders, pastor.

**The Baptist Record**  
P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205

## STAFF CHANGES

1. **Trinity Church, Fulton,** has called Marty Hurt as associate pastor/music worship leader. Shown are Hurt, his wife Christy, and triplets Hayden, Hadley, and Hana. They are from Ripley.

2. **Don Alexander,** licensed and ordained Southern Baptist minister since 2004, is available for pastor, supply, interim pastor, youth groups, and men's breakfasts in central Mississippi. He can be reached at (601) 213-7810, or at 518 Martin Rd., Benton, MS 39040.



1. The Hurts

## OBITUARY

**Sollie Ivan Smith,** 96, passed away Sept. 7. He was a retired Southern Baptist pastor who had served for 77 years. Services were Sept. 10 at Superior Avenue Church, Bogalusa, La., where he had served 16 years prior to his retirement. He was married to May Parker (deceased) of Chattanooga, Tenn., and his present wife, Agnes Wilkins Smith, Stonewall, lived with him in Jackson. Her children are Sam H. Wilkins and Carolyn Gezon. He had three children, Carol Lynn May (deceased) (Gene), Joyce Madeline Garrett (Bob - deceased), and Paul Douglas Smith (Lyndall). He is survived by five grandchildren, and was also a great-grandfather with several nieces and nephews.

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# Hate crimes legislation could stifle religious speech

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — The landmark expansion of hate crimes legislation to protect homosexuals could punish the speech and opinions of evangelical Christians, opponents of the newly approved measure say.

The U.S. Senate finalized congressional action on the effort to extend hate crimes protection to homosexuals by passing the controversial proposal October 22 as part of an annual military bill. Senators voted 68-29 for the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act.

Mississippi Senators Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker, both Republicans, voted against the bill.

The House of Representatives voted 281-146 on October 8 for the same defense bill, which was used as a vehicle for the hate crimes measure though it is not directly related to the controversial provision. Mississippi Congressmen Travis Childers, Bennie Thompson, and Gene Taylor — all Democrats — voted in favor of the bill. Greg Harper, Mississippi's lone Republican Representative, voted against the measure.

The bill will go to President Obama, who has promised homosexual activists he will sign it into law. When Obama signs the legislation, it will mark the most significant federal legislative victory to this point for the homosexual rights movement.

After the Senate vote, Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign described the hate crimes provision as the country's "first major piece of civil rights legislation for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people." The Human Rights Campaign is the country's largest homosexual rights organization.

The hate crimes language, however, could result in threats to the freedoms of those with biblically based convictions regarding homosexual behavior, some of its foes said afterward.

The legislation has the "potential for chilling religious speech regarding homosexuality," said Barrett Duke of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC).

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, said in a written statement the bill "is part of a radical social agenda that could ultimately silence Christians and use the force of government to marginalize anyone whose faith is at odds with homosexuality."

The hate crimes provision in the defense bill would add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity," as well as disability, to the current categories — such as race, religion and gender — protected from hate crimes. Sexual orientation includes homosexuality and bisexuality, while gender identity, or transgendered status, takes in transsexuals and cross-dressers.

The ERLC and others fear the measure, combined with existing law, could expose to prosecution Christians and

others who proclaim the Bible's teaching that homosexual behavior is sinful. For example, if a person commits a violent act based on a victim's sexual orientation after hearing biblical teaching on the sinfulness of homosexual behavior, the preacher or teacher could be open to a charge of inducing the person to commit the crime, some foes say.

The final version of the bill approved by the Senate and House included language designed to protect freedom of speech and the free exercise of religion, but some religious liberties organizations do not consider the protections adequate.

The hate-crimes language "allows for federal prosecution of someone whose speech was 'intended to incite violence against homosexuals,'" Duke, the ERLC's vice president for public policy, noted in a written commentary. "The concern here is over how 'intention' will be determined. No doubt, there will be instances where federal prosecutors will be scrutinizing sermons about homosexuality, parsing the language that is used and the inflection in the voice, to attempt to discern whether or not the speaker intended to incite violence."

Another concern is the measure's approach to a person's attitude toward homosexuality, he said. "The bill leaves open the possibility that someone could be prosecuted for a hate crime on the basis of what he thought about homosexuality, whether this attitude motivated the attack or not."

"In this case, Congress has opened the door to special federal prosecution not only for the act of violence but for what the attacker thought about the victim at the time of the attack. Whether or not these possibilities become realities is yet to be seen."

He also said, "[N]o one should engage in an act of violence against another person because that person is a homosexual."

Erik Stanley, senior legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund, told Christianity Today the language to protect freedom of speech and religion was insufficient. "While the wordings are nice, the amendments are really meaningless. Treating them as a panacea that would treat the problems of the hate crimes law would be wrong."

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR 2010 (H.R. 2647)

U.S. SENATE, FINAL VOTE: 68-29



Thad Cochran

No



Roger Wicker

No

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FINAL VOTE: 281-146



Travis Childers  
First Congressional District

Yes



Bennie Thompson  
Second Congressional District

Yes



Gregg Harper  
Third Congressional District

No



Gene Taylor  
Fourth Congressional District

Yes

During floor debate October 22, Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., expressed concerns that the bill would lead to the policing of thoughts and words. He pointed to a case in Canada in which a youth pastor, Stephen Boissin, was fined \$7,000 by the Alberta Human Rights Commission for writing a letter to the local newspaper criticizing homosexuality.

Boissin wrote, in part, "From kindergarten class on, our children, your grandchildren are being strategically targeted, psychologically abused and brainwashed by homosexual and pro-homosexual educators. Your children are being warped into believing that same-sex families are acceptable; that kissing men is appropriate."

DeMint said, "Canadians right now live under this kind of regime, where so-called human rights commissions operating outside the normal legal process prosecute citizens for espousing opinions the commissioners disagree with. Today in the United States only actions are crimes. If we pass this conference report, opinions will become crimes. What is to stop us from following the lead of the European countries and American college campuses where certain speech is criminalized?"

"Can priests, pastors, and rabbis be sure their preaching will not be prosecuted if it says certain things are right and wrong?"

Harper issued a public statement through his web site. "This reckless language that would criminalize thought should be removed from a bill that is intended to benefit our men and women in uniform," Harper said.

"It is unfortunate that the Democratic leadership would jeopardize our national security interests by combining two completely unrelated bills in order to promote their liberal social agenda," he said.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder commended the Senate's action, saying enactment of the hate crimes legislation has been one of his "highest personal priorities" since he took office in January.

In a written statement, Holder called congressional passage "a milestone in helping protect Americans from the most heinous bias-motivated violence. Hate crimes victimize not just individuals, but entire communities. Perpetrators of hate crimes seek to deny the humanity that we all share, regardless of the color of our skin, the God to whom we pray, or whom we love."

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# THE VILLAGE VIEW



**Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director**

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## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor with taste and respect those who are and have been a part of our special family.

SEPT. 12 - OCT. 7, 2009

### HONORS

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Barry Bridges  
Wess Chapel BC-Louisville  
Keli Brown  
Jonathan Poe  
The Sessums  
The Stockmans  
Thomas Edwin Bruton  
Mr. & Mrs. John Robert Nunnery  
Kathryn Buffington  
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Daniel & Wanda Hart & Family  
Joseph Davide  
Sharon & Herman Dungan  
Melinda Davidson  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Burkheimer  
Dorothy Davis  
Stanton BC-Natchez  
Lee Davis  
Buck & Alma Jo Kennedy  
Buster Ellis  
Buck & Alma Jo Kennedy  
Terry Farmer  
Stanton BC-Natchez  
Cecil Flora  
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Mrs. Helen Freeman  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Green  
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Mrs. June S. Stephenson  
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Mrs. Addie Kirkland  
Jack Turner  
James & Peggy Palmer  
Mrs. Patsy Cliburn Tynes  
Dr. Van D. Quick  
Bill, Beverly & Britton Baker  
Buckatunna Bible Study Group, FBC  
Miriam Bellon & Family  
Sara Carpenter  
Dickinson & Family

John Utz, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Allen  
Shirley Wadsworth  
Mr. Charles M. Carnes  
Ray Ward  
500 Ladies Class, Liberty BC  
John Lawrence "J.L." Watts  
Jack, Hilda & Kevin Hasson  
Robert & Gin Dornell  
Bro. Jewell Lee Whittington  
Hope SS, Enterprise BC-Liberty  
Harold Winborne, Sr.  
Mickey Moore

### The Baptist Children's Village Annual Report 2009

**Rory Lee, Executive Director**

The year 2009 has seen the continuation of the transition of The Baptist Children's Village from a centralized to a more statewide ministry. In April, Ramey Cottage in Natchez was dedicated and was near capacity when school began in August. The India Nunnery Campus extended care is being relocated to Star and work has begun on the Powell/Walley Campus in Waynesboro.

Discussions are underway to add facilities in the Delta and Northeast Mississippi in the next few years. The current and planned construction will get The Baptist Children's Village to the goal of positioning a campus within 50 miles of any child needing our services. The smaller, more homelike settings will give us increased accessibility to families and will allow us to more effectively minister to children and their families who need us.

Over the last 12 months, 252 children were served by The Baptist Children's Village. With each child, the mission statement, "to help children and their families fully understand and experience the healing ministry of Christ by meeting their daily needs, and inspiring them to become Christian adults who are happy, healthy, and mature", and the S.A.F.E. Track program are emphasized. The S.A.F.E. Track program brings into focus Spiritual Growth, Academic Achievement, Family Values, and Emotional Strength. In addition to the children served, BCV staff worked with over 300 other individuals who have a relationship to the children in our care in order to better meet the needs of the children.

There are specific individual goals set in each of the S.A.F.E. Track areas for every resident as they are admitted to the BCV. These goals are discussed and reviewed with the resident to get their input, and to let them know what is necessary to meet the established goals. The goals themselves, and progress toward attaining those goals, are reviewed for each resident every six months.

Services at local churches, daily Bible studies in the cottages and individual conversation about spiritual matters are continually emphasized as a foundational part of the BCV ministry. Over the past year, 19 children made professions of faith. This brings the total to 131 over the past five years.

Two residents graduated from high school in May. Each has chosen to continue their education. One enrolled at Gulf Coast Community College and one is attending Mississippi College.

Through the Cooperative Program of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, The BCV receives 14% of its operating budget. An additional 40% of the budget comes from church gifts over and above the CP gifts. We are grateful for the continued support of this ministry.



The Ladies Night Out group from Tangipahoa Baptist Church in Summit hosted Celeste Cade, BCV Public Relations Associate, as their guest speaker at the September meeting. The ladies shared a time of fellowship and then heard a report on The Baptist Children's Village from Ms. Cade. The group adopted Dickerson Place, The BCV Brookhaven campus, as their September project. They collected paper products and cleaning supplies for them.



## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

### Live Your Faith

James 1:19-25; 2:14,18-26

By Ken Anderson

The final lessons in this quarter are taken from the book of James. James, pastor to the Jerusalem believers, called his readers to genuine and practical faith. Those without the gospel need to see in the life of believers genuine Christlike behavior. The lessons can help Christians affirm or renew their commitment to demonstrate authentic faith.

#### Receive the Implanted Word 1:19-21:

Here James emphasized the importance of hearing and doing, understanding and practicing. He named a number of actions that should characterize the believer. James calls for believers to obey the Word (Vs. 21). The word of God is engrafted, implanted once and for all in each believer. Yet it should not remain in that state; rather it is to be willingly nurtured to

promote spiritual fruit. Thomas D. Lea notes that receiving the implanted word "calls for a warm open welcome to the influence of God's message in our lives. The message of the gospel grows best when believers welcome its message and cultivate its presence" (Hebrew and James, vol. 10, Holman New Testament Commentary, P. 265, 273).

Some interpreters understand verses 19-21a as a list of the qualities that result from a correct response to the implanted word. In other words, James listed five inward responses to the Word of God. First "be quick to listen" to the word. The believers should take every opportunity to hear the word. One's faith should not be characterized by a reluctance to hear but to be swift to hear the word. Second, "slow to speak" is to be quiet



Anderson

and allow God to speak. The third is "slow to anger." Anger is a barrier to God's word being heard and doesn't promote God's righteousness. Fourth is to put away all "filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness" (KJV) any semblance of

evil that corrupts and reduces one's hunger for the Word. Fifth is "receive with meekness" or humility which means to be teachable.

#### Do the Word 22-25:

This is the heart of James' message. Believers are not to hear the word only, but apply the word to daily living. Francis W. Dixon noted, "That which is heard in the holy place must be lived in the marketplace." James used a simile to illustrate his point. One glances in a mirror, but the person goes on about his business and soon forgets what he saw. "On the other hand the earnest person 'looks' closely into the divine mirror, and instead of going away 'lives in its company' (Ps. 1:2)" (G. C. D. Howley, A New Testament

Commentary, p.573). The Bible is of no benefit unless it is applied to life.

#### Perfect Your Faith 2:14, 18-26:

"Works," or "deeds" in verse fourteen is not a qualifier or prerequisite for salvation, but is a result of salvation. James answered some who attempted to separate faith from works. Faith is the foundation and works are the evidence; faith is the root and works are the fruit. James gave Abraham and Rahab as two examples of faith that produced works. God pronounced Abraham righteous (Vs. 23). Abraham demonstrated his righteousness through his deed of presenting Isaac as a sacrifice (Vs. 21). Warren Wiersbe expressed it, "By faith, he was justified before God and his righteousness declared; by works he was justified before men and his righteousness demonstrated" (Be Mature, p.83). In contrast Rahab, the prostitute, declared her faith (vs. 25). Read Joshua 2:11. She then demonstrated her faith by housing Israel's spies and guiding them to safety. The relationship between faith and

works is compared to the spirit and the body. A body without spirit is a dead body and so is faith without works (vs.26) Paul A. Cedar wrote "Unfortunately, the stench of death hovers over many of our churches and over many of the lives of professing Christians. Often, we have mouthed the correct confessions and mastered the orthodox theology, but our faith has been dead" (The Communicator's Commentary, P. 64)

#### Insights:

John Ruskin said, "Make it the first morning business of your life to understand some part of the Bible clearly, and make it your daily business to obey it in all that you understand."

Christians often compartmentalize their Bible study from everyday life. The effectiveness of Bible study is measured by its impact on one's daily actions. The absence of applied faith raises serious questions of the validity of one's faith.

Anderson is Transitional Pastor, Tremont First Baptist Church, Tremont.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### When I Am Afflicted

Psalm 102

By Ginger M. Caughman

Beethoven's 5th symphony begins with one of the most familiar sounds in classical music. The first few staccato notes blare forth dramatically --! Afterward, the music stops! But does it? No, the music continues with four more strong notes continuing the symphony. The stops are actually dramatic pauses or rests.

The topic of our last lesson in Unit 2: "When the Music Stops," concerns affliction. What does the Psalmist say? How does the Psalmist encourage us to trust God?

#### Life is transitory;

God is eternal, vv. 1-22

"Life is real! Life is earnest! And the grave is not its goal." The poet reminds us: "Dust thou art, to dust returnest," was not spoken of the soul." (Henry W. Longfellow, A Psalm of Life).

Look in your Bible above

Psalm 102. "Prayer of an Afflicted Man for Mercy on Himself and on Zion," or: "A Prayer of the Afflicted when he is faint and pours out his complaint before the Lord."

In a parallel Psalm, David (in trouble), pours out his complaint to God (see Ps. 142). Charles Spurgeon teaches us "the word complaint does not have the idea of fault-finding but should rather be rendered 'moaning,' the expression of pain, not of rebellion."

Have you ever moaned to God? I have cried, "Oh God! Please help..." He does hear our heart-felt prayers as indeed the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. Another Scripture promise in the magnificent chapter, Romans 8 (v. 26), where Christ promises to deliver us from all kinds of affliction, bondage, and distress.



Caughman

The Psalmist shifts his focus. "But You O Lord sit enthroned forever!" (v. 12).

As a newlywed, Alicia Williamson Garcia's ministry began with a diagnosis of cancer. God gave her a song: "Healing Comes from Knowing Who I Am" (© 1998). Now years and two sons later she has an active ministry, "In Worship."

By profession Deforia Lane is a Christian music therapist and has told with love and courage of the power of music to help others. "I have seen God work in some unique ways through His marvelous and transcendent gift of music. I have witnessed miracles. I have come to believe; music is nothing less than a soul at praise" (Music as Medicine, Zondervan, 1994).

When Deforia found she had cancer, she wrote candidly of her struggles, questions and release to faith in God's sustaining peace and grace. She lost herself in the Psalms and "found the ring of truth, the

music of grace in His presence." It was only as I moved in faith, one tiny step, that I found the grace to move again, another tiny step. I had to die to selfish desires so I could live. God arranged the rest."

For her support group, Deforia wrote a song, "We Can Cope." The American Cancer Society recorded and used as a theme song in national meetings. Deforia still had inner turmoil she couldn't discuss in her speeches. After reading some verses in Second Corinthians, Deforia wrote a song she sang at her church, "My Soul Is Complete in Christ."

#### God Never Changes, vv. 23-28

Christians can view our afflictions in light of the unchangeable nature of our eternal God. He is Alpha and Omega and reigns forever!

My friend, Frances Keyes, an experienced Sunday School teacher, loves to study "Halley's Bible Handbook." "The Eternity of God (vv. 25-27) is quoted in Hebrews 1:10-12 as applying to Christ," (Henry Halley). Remember God's great mystery, "We

shall all be changed!" (See Ps. 102:26b and 1 Cor. 15:51b).

What are the soul songs you sing to yourself? In an early musical, Bill and Gloria Gaither and Ron Huff blended powerful music pulsating under the meaningful narration emphasizing Jesus as The Song of our lives! "Where there is dissonance, He makes music!" Through a dramatic progression, the music becomes more intense, then violent: "They killed some who sang the song... Finally they nailed that Song to a tree thinking the Song was killed.... But the Song of Jesus goes on!" ("God Gave the Song," "Alleluia!" Benson, 1973).

PRAYER: Father, You do not change through all of my life's music. Help me remember that when I die, as the first part of Beethoven's Fifth, it's just a pause and my spirit continues into eternity. You are my eternal Song. I praise and trust You. In Jesus name. Amen.

Caughman teaches the Bible and sings in two choirs at First Church, Magee.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten; (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

# The Baptist Record

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.





1. North Long Beach Church, Long Beach



2. Corinth Church, Tallahatchie County



3. Branch and North Morton Churches, Morton



4. First Church, Helena

1. The sewing group of North Long Beach Church, Long Beach, made 45 dresses for children in Nicaragua. Shown are Bettye Buckley, Barbara Sparacino, Judy Bonner, and pastor Charles Bonner.

2. Corinth Church, Tallahatchie County, recently ordained Lee Crenshaw and Tandy Whitten, Jr., as deacons. Shown are Katie Crenshaw, Crenshaw, Whitten, and Krystal Whitten.

3. Branch Church and North Morton Church, Morton, held a prayer walk Oct. 11 at Farris Park, Morton. The groups collected canned food to be donated to the Crisis center in Forest. Shown are the participants.

4. First Church, Helena, recognizes its youth Bible drillers. Shown are the participants.

5. South Crossroads Church, Tishomingo Association, recently ordained Keith Lovelace as deacon. Shown are Lovelace and pastor Mike Neighbors.

6. The RAs of Calvary Church, Braxton, worked on their campcraft patch by working on firecraft. The boys cooked sausage with a fire in the ground. Shown are Josh Johns, Samuel Shufelt, Brett Olney, Johnny Rainey, Payton Neely, and Caleb Johns. Mike Chisolm, Vernon Gillis, and Willie Johns, leaders; Bryan Shufelt, pastor. Shown are the RAs.

7. Victory Church, Jefferson Davis County, ordained Jason Harvey as deacon Sept. 27. Shown are Harvey, his wife Whitney, and son J.D.

8. Coldwater Church, Neshoba County, ordained Edward James and Scott Payne as deacons Oct. 18. Shown are pastor Robin Brumfield, James, Payne, and Glenn Jackson.

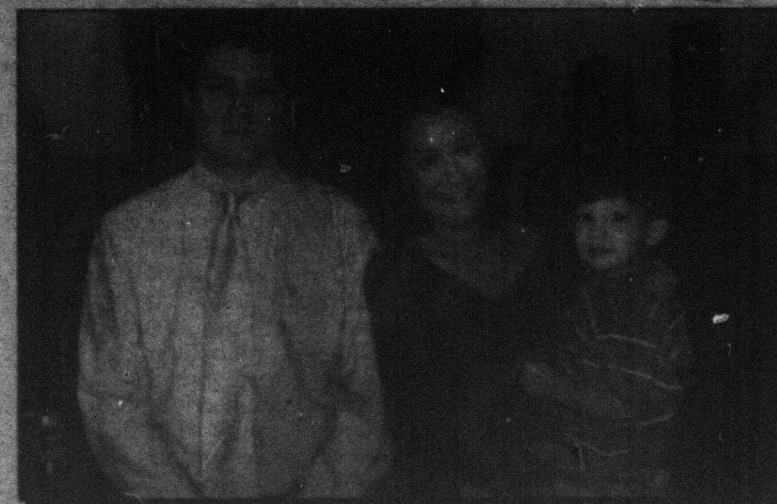
9. The WMU of Alcorn Association recently hosted the Area 2 Girls Missions Madness at First Church, Corinth. Girls and leaders from 38 churches and 11 associations participated. The group sent \$350 to the Christmas Mug Project at the Seafarers Center, Pascagoula.



5. South Crossroads Church, Tishomingo Association



6. Calvary Church, Braxton



7. Victory Church, Jefferson Davis County



8. Coldwater Church, Neshoba County